RHODE ISLAND SEA GRANT

BY THE NUMBERS

- 67 jobs created or sustained
- 110 fishers adopted sustainable harvesting techniques
- 103 professionals trained in hazard analysis & critical control points (HACCP) for seafood processing
- 144 undergraduate and graduate students supported
- 821 volunteer hours provided to Rhode Island Sea Grant
- 37 businesses retained or assisted
- 28 resource managers used EBM tools
- 3 communities implemented resilience practices
- 13 law fellow projects helped organizations and communities answer legal questions

$2,661,889 federal funds
$1,330,944 non-federal match
$411,945 leveraged funds

fy 2018 numbers

Research • Outreach • Education
Rhode Island Sea Grant is one of 34 programs in the National Sea Grant College Program working to enhance environmental stewardship, long-term economic development, and responsible use of coastal and marine resources. Located at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Rhode Island Sea Grant supports research, outreach, and education programs designed to foster the resiliency of coastal communities and marine environments. Rhode Island Sea Grant partners with the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center on its extension program, and with the Roger Williams University (RWU) School of Law on its legal program, located at the Marine Affairs Institute at RWU.

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Every year, Rhode Island Sea Grant supports research projects designed to directly benefit those who depend on the state’s marine and coastal resources. These projects recently have found that oyster aquaculture may be an important method for removing nutrients that can over-fertilize coastal waters, and that the Block Island Wind Farm had a positive effect on recreational fisheries and tourism, rather than a negative impact as was feared. Rhode Island Sea Grant also supported the development of an app used by commercial quahoggers to enter data that is being used to improve stock assessments. And research into harmful algal blooms, such as those that closed shellfisheries in 2016, found that the same species can bloom but not be toxic. New research is underway to better understand this process to help improve the state’s response to future blooms.

Rhode Island Sea Grant annually supports a number of graduate and undergraduate students, who get hands-on experience in coastal ocean resources problem-solving. Undergraduates in fields such as landscape architecture and ocean engineering work directly with communities, under the guidance of their professors and Rhode Island Sea Grant Extension professionals, to come up with ideas to help sites and entire neighborhoods cope with sea level rise and flooding. Other undergraduates gain experience in science writing, communications, and marketing to cover stories about coastal management issues, organize and promote educational events, and assist with website development and social media. Law students at RWU School of Law work with the Rhode Island Sea Grant Senior Staff Attorney and clients drawn from all sectors of Rhode Island and beyond on legal research projects. Recently, these have included helping the state better understand the liability issues around dams in light of the greater stress placed on them as storms grow more intense, and helping coastal municipalities examine legal issues surrounding road abandonment as a response to erosion and sea level rise. And graduate students in oceanography, marine affairs, fisheries science, and other fields perform research in projects that help resources managers and stakeholders better understand and manage their coastal resources.